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Message Text

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12
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:WEKNEPPER:YM
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S/S - JPMOFFAT
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---------- 017191
R 232338Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016665

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, VE
SUBJECT: OPEC, GSP, AND VENEZUELA
REF: CARACAS 0734

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ARA ROGERS

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EXCELLENT REPORTING ON VENEZUELAN REACTION TO THE U.S. TRADE ACT. WE SHARE YOUR IMPRESSION THAT THE VENEZUELANS AND OTHERS ARE LOOKING FOR SOME FORM OF HIGH LEVEL U.S. ASSURANCE THAT MODIFICATIONS IN THE TRADE ACT WILL BE MADE. AS YOU KNOW, BOTH SECRETARY KISSINGER, IN HIS JANUARY 16 PRESS INTERVIEW, AND PRESIDENT FORD, IN HIS JANUARY 3 STATEMENT ON SIGNING THE TRADE ACT, EXPRESSED REGRET WITH RIGIDITIES IN THE LEGISLATION AND OUR INTENTION TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO SEE WHAT MODIFICATIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT NO, REPEAT NO, DECISION HAS BEEN MADE WITHIN THE USG AS TO WHETHER WE WILL SEEK TO WORK OUT WITH THE CONGRESS A SATISFACTORY INTERPRETATION OF THE PRESENT LANGUAGE OF THE TRADE ACT OR
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WHETHER THE EXECUTIVE SHOULD SUBMIT LEGISLATION ITSELF OR

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SUPPORT LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY OTHERS TO AMEND LANGUAGE
THAT EXISTS IN THE PRESENT ACT. THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT IS
CURRENTLY UNDERGOING INTENSIVE REVIEW WITHIN THE USG AND
WITH DISCREET INQUIRIES AMONG THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND

THEIR STAFF. I WILL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS A DECISION
ON THIS MATTER IS REACHED BY THOSE WHO ARE WORKING ON
THIS SUBJECT HERE IN WASHINGTON. INGERSOLL

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